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*The Kiwanis Club of Meriden meets:
Thursdays at 12:15 PM
at Il Monticello
577 South Broad Street
Meriden, CT*

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NOTES FROM THE WEEKLY MEETING HELD DECEMBER 18, 2014

President Brian Cofrancesco called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM. We sang "My Country Tis of Thee", recited the Pledge of Allegiance, and prayed along with Pierre Blanchet.

GUESTS: Ed and Elaine Murphy brought their grandson, Colin Cassidy, and Ann Giannetti brought her husband, Joe. (Joe has also submitted an application for membership with the Kiwanis Club of Meriden!).

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Brian welcomed the Platt Pentangles, under the direction of Mark Faticoni. The group filed in and began a wonderful program of holiday songs, including: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing", "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming", "Christmas Is Coming", "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas", "Deck the Halls", "The First Noel", "The Dreidel Song", "Let It Snow", and "Carol of the Bells".



The Platt Pentangles and their director, Mark Faticoni.

Carol Reiss-Miller then thanked the Platt Pentangles and Mr. Faticoni and presented them with a Certificate of Appreciation and a Kiwanis bell.

It was an absolutely delightful and entertaining performance!

50/50: \$9 was won by Ann Giannetti.

HAPPY DOLLARS: 🦋 Jim Gamble - Three happy dollars: for all the bell ringers on Saturday and to thank Bob Gollnick for being his assistant.


🦋 Corinne Balcher - Two happy dollars: one for seeing Dave Elkin here at lunch and a second to let everyone know she is going back to work.


🦋 David Elkin - Five happy dollars: first to thank everyone for the get well wishes; a second for his caregiver, Dorothy; third happy dollar for being glad to be here; a fourth for being really glad to be here; and a fifth for being really, really glad to be here.

🦋 Lorraine Gamble - Happy for the two boys, Dave Elkin and Jim Gamble being back.


🦋 Florence Thibodeau - Five happy dollars to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a peaceful holiday.


🦋 Bob Gollnick - Two happy dollars: one for finding a Dunkin Donuts gift card, trying to find its owner, but unable to do so decided to contribute whatever was left on the card to the charity. Nothing was left on the card, so Bob contributed \$5 to the charity anyway. A second happy dollar for seeing the economy doing a little better, seeing clients taking bonuses (not Bob, though).

HAPPY DOLLARS (CONT'D):  Ann Giannetti - one for winning the 50/50 and one for her husband, Joe, joining us as a Kiwanian.

 Eileen Bongiovanni - Five happy dollars: one for seeing David Elkin, Jim Gamble and Joe Giannetti here at lunch today; a second for the Platt Pentangles; one for a grandchild that will be born any day; one for a grandchild that will be born in April; and one for a grandchild that will be born in June.

 Carol Reiss-Miller - a happy dollar for the Christmas caroling we will be doing at Bradley Home and Baptist Home this Sunday.

 Pierre Blanchet - Pierre approached the podium, grabbed Brian's Santa hat, and exclaimed "Ho, ho, ho! Merry Christmas!"

 Brian Cofrancesco - Six happy dollars: one for a really great Governor's visit on Sunday; a second for receiving the official charter paperwork from Don Parker for the Circle K club at University of New Haven; a third for having Jim Gamble and David Elkin back with us this week; a fourth for perusing the Kiwanis folder of historic Meriden Kiwanis news clippings at the library the other night; a fifth for attending a Wallingford Kiwanis Club meeting the other night; and a sixth for attending a program this evening "Rules of Engagement; Baby Boomers vs. Millennials" which will discuss the changes in civic engagement and giving back to the community between the country's two largest generations.

BIRTHDAYS: We sang "Happy Birthday" to Sharon Karrass (December 28th).

ANNIVERSARIES: We sang "Happy Anniversary" to Peter and Sharon Burch (December 30th). We recognized the Kiwanis anniversary of Robert MacDuff (32 years).

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Brian presented a small gift of appreciation to JoAnne Grabinski, who advised the group that this would be her last time serving luncheon. JoAnne will be taking a job grant-writing for CPEP, a non-profit organization in Middletown.

Brian then announced the "Member of the Month". Bruce Burchstead is our club's unsung hero for November in appreciation for all the amazing work he did for our annual Kapers show. Bruce really went above and beyond this year with the printing jobs, including an increased number of pages in the program, the Klown Car, the photo-op klown cutouts, and extra signage. Bruce also did an extraordinary amount of work with the pit band (the "Humble Bees Ragged Time Band") and the musical score for "Kiwanis Builds a Better World." We truly thank him for all he did to make our Kapers show such a success.

Kapers DVDs (both Friday and Saturday performances) are available at the cost of \$15. Please contact Doreen Roddy if you wish to purchase a DVD.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 PM.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 23rd: Roundtable meeting at Huxley's Bookmark Cafe., East Main St., Meriden, 12:15 PM.

DECEMBER 30th: Roundtable meeting at Huxley's Bookmark Cafe., East Main St., Meriden, 12:15 PM.

JANUARY 1st: HAPPY NEW YEAR!

JANUARY 7th: Board meeting at Hunter's Ambulance Training Center, 474 West Main Street, in Meriden. Light fare at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7:00 PM.

JANUARY 8th: Service project night meeting, 6:30 PM. Connecticut Baptist Homes, 292 Thorpe Avenue, Meriden. Service project to be announced.

JANUARY 11th: Holiday Party - 1:00 PM at Winding Brook Condominium Clubhouse. More details to follow.

JANUARY 12th: Kiwanis Kapers wrap-up meeting - 6:30 PM at Lauren Rizzuto's house.

JANUARY 15th: Luncheon meeting at Il Monticello, 12:15 PM.

JANUARY 21st: Happy 100th Anniversary Kiwanis International!

JANUARY 23rd: Past President's - Legion of Honor - Legion of Merit Dinner at Il Monticello. Social hour begins at 6:00 PM and dinner at 7:00 PM.

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